

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a system and method of dispatching an IP datagram comprising socks traffic on a socks server, in an Internet Protocol (IP) network comprising a plurality of socks servers, the IP datagram comprising an IP header comprising a Type Of Service (TOS) field. The method comprises in a socks dispatcher the steps of retrieving the value of the Type Of Service (TOS) field from the IP header of the IP datagram and selecting a socks server referring to a first table, said first table defining for each value of the TOS field one or a plurality of socks servers. The IP datagram is sent by an IP network device with a given priority. The step of retrieving the value of the Type Of Service (TOS) field is followed by the further step of determining the priority of the IP datagram by referring to a second table, the second table defining a priority for each value of the Type Of Service (TOS) field. The IP datagram comprising data according to a given application level protocol, the step of determining the priority of the IP datagram comprises the further step of determining the application level protocol of data transported in the IP datagram by referring to the second table, the second table defining a priority and an application level protocol for each value of the Type Of Service (TOS) field. In case of congestion in one or a plurality of output queues, the step of determining the priority of the IP datagram is followed by the further steps of discarding in the one or plurality of output queues IP datagrams having the lowest priority until there is no more congestion, and discarding the IP datagram when said IP datagram compared with IP datagrams in said one or plurality of output queues, has the lowest priority.